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CONGRESS should pass a law making the violation of an international treaty an offense punishable in the federal courts.

NOTHING has been heard lately of the Keely motor or the Chicago air-ship. These valuable inventions should not be allowed to lapse into oblivion.

IF the weather were made by a contractor that of the past month would justify the conclusion that the person having the contract is a month behind in his work.

MR. PARNELL has been styled "the uncrowned King of Ireland," but in view of the recent Irish elections, particularly that in Sligo, the term "disowned leader" would fit the facts better.

ITALY has some war ships of tremendous power, but it takes coal to run ships and money to buy coal, and the Italian treasury is empty. In truth, that is its normal condition.

THE war-cloud cloudlet which hasty Italy made having vanished, it will be entirely safe for those persons who are most valiant when furthest away from battle to tell how many Italians they would have slaughtered had they been let loose.

IT is not best to worry lest the cold snap may have a bad effect upon the fruit, since no one knows what might come to us if we should have abundant and cheap fruit and the cheapest sugar the same season. Still, any calamity in that line could be charged to the McKinley law.

THERE is hope for Delaware. It cannot easily get rid of its Constitution, which was fastened on it years ago, in which the word "white" limits suffrage, and which has been set aside by the fifteenth amendment, but its Legislature has passed a free-school bill putting colored children on an equality with white.

REV. THOMAS E. SHERMAN, son of the late General, has written a letter to the New York Chamber of Commerce, thanking it for the kindness and honors shown to his father's memory. The letter, like other recent expressions from Father Sherman, is a model of excellent taste, fine feeling and admirable expression.

TWO new expeditions in search of the north pole are announced—an overland expedition to cross Greenland, under command of Engineer Peary, of the United States navy, to start in May, and another to sail in June from the north coast of Siberia, lead by Dr. Nansen, who fancies that he has discovered a current setting toward an open sea around the north pole. It would seem that there had been quite enough of this north pole nonsense during the past fifty years.

THE Boston statistician and economist, Mr. Edward Atkinson, has just had ten gentlemen to dinner with his family of seven, at which the cheapest meats and vegetables were served in five courses at a cost of $2.20, or 13 cents per plate. Doubtless these cheap articles were manipulated by a salaried French cook, whose services and *et ceteras* did not enter into the $2.20. There is no doubt that, as a people, we get the poorest living out of the best materials in the world, and that that branch of the culinary art which changes cheap materials into healthful and inviting food is unknown. Nevertheless, an economy which expends itself in devising the cheapest food that will support existence is most unwise, since consumption would be reduced to so low a figure that production would find no market and capital and labor no compensation.

THE city of New York is presenting a claim against the general government for more than $2,000,000. It seems that on the 21st of April, 1861, a few days after the fall of Fort Sumter, the City Council of New York appropriated $1,000,000 "to fit out volunteers and to aid in the provision of their families during their absence, to raise troops, fit out regiments and furnish arms and ammunition and military stores in aid of the government of the United States." The amount thus appropriated by the Common Council was raised by the issue of bonds of the city of New York, and was expended for the purposes named by a Union-defense committee composed of prominent citizens. It is claimed that as the government repaid to various States the sums advanced for war purposes it should also refund the above amount to the city. In addition to the original appropriation, it is claimed that the city paid interest on the bonds before they were redeemed amounting to $1,397,089. The present claim is for principal and interest. If it is allowed Tammany will probably hold a big wardance and get on a prolonged spree.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS.

The people of the United States must recognize the fact that they are liable at any time to be suddenly drawn into complications with foreign governments. It is impossible to foresee or predict from what quarter such complications will come or what will give rise to them, but in the nature of things they cannot be wholly avoided. Sixty days ago nothing appeared more improbable than a controversy with Italy, yet it came like a clap of thunder from a clear sky and in a pretty serious form. We are now a nation of 65,000,000 people. Our interests are much more extended and more complicated than they were a generation or two ago. We come in contact with foreign nations at more points and the dangers of collision are proportionately increased. Recent events show how easily trouble may spring out of our free-and-easy immigration laws.

South America is a dangerous quarter, and it will not be at all surprising if our next war shall arise in that direction—not with any South American state or people, but in connection with them. The United States government is committed to the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine, which denies the right of any European government to meddle in the national affairs of any people on this continent, or to attempt to assert territorial rights or establish itself in any part of it. The closer our relations with South American states become the greater will be our apparent obligation to maintain and enforce this doctrine. But European governments have large and growing interests in South America, and are keeping a sharp eye on them. Great Britain, Germany and France all have large interests in South American trade, and have shown some disposition to acquire political influence there. This disposition is likely to become more pronounced in the future, and to be exercised without much regard for the Monroe doctrine. It needs no gift of prophecy to see that there is a possibility of trouble in that quarter. It may spring up very suddenly and unexpectedly, and, perhaps, with a power with which our relations have been most friendly.

Even now there is growing up a situation that may lead to trouble. There are no present indications that it will, but it may. For several years past Great Britain has been nursing a boundary dispute with Venezuela, and showing an aggressive disposition towards that state. It will probably end in an attempt, by Great Britain, to seize a strip of disputed territory. This claim is liable to be asserted at any time. No longer ago than yesterday dispatches from Panama announced the arrest and killing of a British land-holder by a squad of Venezuela police. An English paper, published in Venezuela, gives a detailed account of the affair and calls for the intervention of the British government. It is not at all unlikely that that government will demand reparation and send a war vessel to enforce its demands. It is even possible that the incident may be used as a pretext for the enforcement of the British claim to Venezuelan territory. When the British government moves in such matters it is generally fully prepared to move, and means business. Suppose it should attempt to seize and hold the strip of Venezuelan territory it now claims for the purpose of converting it into a British colony. That would be a direct contravention of the Monroe doctrine, and would compel the United States either to assert the doctrine or abandon its traditional position. If we undertook to assert it there would immediately arise a serious diplomatic controversy, with a possibility of war. Such a complication does not appear as improbable as a complication with Italy did two months ago. The Monroe doctrine may cause us a great deal of trouble yet.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PATENT.

The beginning of the second century of the American patent system will be celebrated by an assembly of inventors, discoverers, specialists and savants in Washington next Friday. It has been announced that the President will preside over the first public meeting commemorative of the birth of the system, and that Secretary Noble and other distinguished gentlemen will be chairmen of the meetings which follow. One reads of the age of fable, the age of chivalry, the golden and the iron ages, but the age of discovery, which really set in with the nineteenth century, has been more wonderful and more important in its results than those bearing grander names. Under the first patent law of the United States, passed in April, 1790, only three patents were issued the first year, thirty-three the second and only eleven the third. At that time every product was the result of the efforts of man and beast. Steam was recognized as a power, but it had only been applied in a few cases to pumping out submerged mines. The steamboat, as a practical realization, was twenty years, and the railway and steam locomotive more than forty years in the future. The electric discoveries of Franklin and Volta were known, but a half a century elapsed before they were tamed and applied to the telegraph, and nearly a century passed ere electricity made the public familiar with the annoyances and the high rates of the telephone, and the "five wire" of the electric light came to add new terrors to human existence. The discoveries which led to the application of steam and electricity to industry and commerce have revolutionized the civilized world. During the past century invention, often stimulated by the rewards held out by the patent laws, has devised a thousand appliances to emancipate the human race from the severest toil and to give to the masses conveniences and comforts which kings could not command when Washington was President. What armies of bondmen and women the invention of the power loom set free, clothing the masses with apparel which the wealthy could not then command. In the matter of the small conveniences of life, the century of invention has wrought marvels. We can estimate something of the value of the acquisitions of the century in this line, if we but contemplate the loss of the friction match and the substitution of the steel, flint and tinder of our ancestors, to whom the loss of the household fire was not a small one because of the difficulty of restoring it. How far patent laws and the privileges which they have afforded inventors have been instrumental in the physical emancipation and progress of the age, no one can tell; but the Patent Office at Washington, stuffed with designs and models, must convince us that the influence of such laws has stimulated the inventive genius to an extent which cannot be estimated. As against the three patents issued the first year of the patent law, when the age of invention was just dawning, twenty thousand were issued last year, when it would seem to the average person that the whole field of useful discovery had been occupied. Yet, from the marvels of the past, there is reason to expect that far greater wonders are in store for future generations, many of which will tend to increase the intelligence and the happiness of the race. And yet there are those narrow beings who, because some article which is of great advantage to them pays a royalty to the inventor or his associates, are passing resolutions demanding the repeal of all patent laws. Unfortunately, there is no patent monopoly or no prohibitory tariff on despicable meanness.

BETTER PROSPECTS FOR FARMERS.

The outlook for farmers is now more hopeful than it has been for several years. During the past year, as has been shown, the prices of nearly all products of the farm have advanced, except cattle and hogs, and very recently there has been a decided advance in the prices of these animals. The reports of a short wheat crop in France and elsewhere in Europe, with a present prospect of a good yield in the winter-wheat belt in this country, afford good promise for next season. Outside of these special features, the general situation contains hopeful indications. From 1870 to 1885 the acreage of wheat was increased in this country and India very largely, causing a general depreciation of the price. In this country the acreage of wheat was not so large last year, compared with population, as it was in 1885. Statistics from Russia show that the breadth devoted to wheat is no larger than it was fifteen years ago, and that easily-tilled lands are exhausted. During the past few years the export of wheat from India to Great Britain has not increased, because it cannot be produced at present prices. On the other hand, the apparently improved condition of European people has caused a larger consumption of wheat bread than years ago. With a rapidly increasing population and the diversified industries absorbing that increase, the consumption of wheat must be so largely increased in this country that, upon the present basis of production, the surplus for other markets must decrease. Another feature which presents encouragement is the gradual diversifying of American agriculture. A recent census bulletin shows that in 1889 the products of truck-farming reached the value of $76,507,155 after paying freights and commissions, giving employment, a large portion of the year, to over 240,000 people. The rapid growth of cities and manufacturing towns will give greater importance to this branch of agriculture, reducing, in the vicinity of towns, the acreage heretofore devoted to wheat and corn. Furthermore, the easily cultivated prairies are now practically occupied—a condition which must check the increase of production in the new States and turn the tide of declining values in the old agricultural regions in the other direction.

THE WAR SPIRIT.

The Italian incident has developed considerable war fever. One day it was announced from Fort Scott, Kan., that a hundred thousand Kansas cowboys would like to spend the summer in Rome, and Secretary Blaine was asked if he could furnish transportation. Then "the people of Dodge City, in mass convention assembled," offered a thousand able-bodied men for the defense of New Orleans. Boulder, Mont., tendered the Secretary of war five hundred mountaineers "in case of war with the Italian government," while several ex-confederate organizations were prompt to offer their services in defense of the old flag. Of course, all this seems ridiculous, and yet, in one point of view, it is entitled to respect and even admiration. Untimely and out of place as these proffers of assistance were, they were doubtless made in good faith, and represent a sentiment that is not to be laughed at. They were prompted by a spirit which lies at the foundation of all patriotism—the spirit that impels men to hasten to the support of the government whenever it needs defending. The United States maintains no standing army to speak of, but depends on the loyalty and patriotism of its people for whatever support or defense it may need. There is reason to believe its dependence in this regard is well founded.

Such an incident as the Italian complication is beneficial in the way of testing and developing the latent patriotism of the people. The situation was not serious, but it was sufficiently so to develop the existence of an abundance of patriotism and genuine war spirit. The truth is, the present generation of Americans is a war generation. What with veterans and sons of veterans there is a great deal of war spirit abroad. A great many of the soldiers of the last war, who enlisted very young, are still well preserved and not past the fighting age, while a host of the sons of veterans, born during or since the war, are old enough to bear arms, and would enlist by thousands in case their services were needed. A government whose people are so ready to defend it does not need a large standing army. The recent exhibitions of war spirit were amusing, because there was no occasion for them, but their motive was none the less admirable. It is desirable that the war spirit should always exist among our people, though, of course, it should only be appealed to in rare cases of great emergency.

THE MAGNATE'S SIDE OF THE RAILROAD QUESTION.

Sidney Dillon, the present president of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, is well known in the railroad and speculative world, but his paper, entitled "The West and the Railroads," in the April number of the North American Review, is probably his first formal venture in magazine literature. It is a very creditable performance from a literary point of view, and would justify the author in looking ahead to self-support by magazine-writing in the event his income from other sources should shrink. Mr. Dillon does not look at the railroad question from the point of view at which Senator-elect Peffer and legislators who are establishing minimum rates do. He says that the great West is the creation of the railroads, and that a section of country which has a population of 30,000,000 would be comparatively uninhabited but for the railroads. Not only has the railroad peopled the West and made it an empire, but, according to Mr. Dillon, railways have virtually changed the character of the soil by encouraging legitimate methods of cultivation and irrigation, and they have also changed the climate—that is, farmers whom the railroads carry into the far west turn up the ground, creating rainfall by evaporation, while the planting of trees breaks the north winds and modifies the climate. In their practical results the railroads have reduced the cost of carrying a bushel of wheat from Chicago to New York from 42.6 cents in 1868 to 14.31 cents in 1890. A system which has produced such marvels, Mr. Dillon insists, is not an enemy of the people. But the most interesting topic which the railroad magnate discusses is the subject of over-capitalization of railroads. Capital, he says, is an unknown quantity, and its value depends upon its productive uses. "Railway capital is a manifestation of capital put to work. Sometimes a railroad is capitalized too largely, when it pays smaller dividends; sometimes not largely enough, and then the dividends are much in excess of the usual interest of money." In the first case stockholders must either reduce the face of their shares or wait until increase of population increases revenue; in the latter case they accept an enlarged issue. Upon this statement of the case, Mr. Dillon assumes that the question of capitalization concerns the stockholders only, and it is an impertinence for a citizen, as a citizen, to question the right of a corporation to capitalize its properties as its shareholders see fit.

Every fair-minded man will agree with Mr. Dillon in his estimate of the great usefulness of railroads as a factor in the civilization and prosperity of the country, and most of them have no sympathy with that element which would legislate against the railroads as a foe and destroy them as property, but very few will agree that his ideas regarding over-capitalization, particularly with his assumption that it is no "affair" of the citizen to what extent corporations capitalize their roads. When a company gives $3,000 or $4,000 of stock to every person who will purchase at par or near par, $1,000 of bonds, thereby creating a capitalization of $50,000 or $60,000 a mile when the real cost per mile is $15,000 or $20,000, and makes rates of transportation designed to pay a rate of interest or dividend on a capitalization which is two-thirds fictitious and which would be at the rate of 10 or 12 per cent. on the actual cost of the property, it becomes the affair of every person whose living is affected by such rates. Furthermore, if a railroad property pays largely in excess of the rates which money will earn in other industries and the stock is watered so as to reduce the apparent per centum of earnings, the public has a right to not only protest but interfere, since, in justice, the rates of transportation should be reduced to a figure which will yield a fair return on the *bona fide* investment. Mr. Dillon has touched a feature of the railroad problem which is likely to attract more attention on the part of practical and intelligent men who value the railroads and do not regard their owners and managers as plunderers than all others. If the capitalization of railroads should be established upon the basis of their actual cost they would be better property, and consequently thousands of people would hold stock as investments where ten will not touch such property under present conditions.

TALLEYRAND IN THE UNITED STATES.

The memoirs of Talleyrand, recently published, refer very briefly to his short residence in Philadelphia. His sojourn in that city had no particular significance, and cuts very little figure in his biography; nevertheless, it was an interesting incident in a remarkable career. A writer in the Philadelphia Times has gleaned all the facts that can be learned concerning it. He came there to get away from France, where he did not feel safe. It was in 1792 that he went to England, ostensibly on a scientific mission, but really to leave France. From there he came, in 1794, to this country. While in London he became intimately acquainted with an English nobleman, who gave him a very cordial letter of introduction to General Washington, but the latter refused to receive him. Talleyrand was about forty years old when he came to Philadelphia. He is described as tall, with very light hair, which was worn long and parted in the middle. He had expressive blue eyes and a sallow complexion. His mouth was wide and coarse, and his body large, while his legs were singularly small and his feet deformed. He was also affected with lameness, caused by an accident when a child. He was very poor while in Philadelphia, and his different residences or lodging places were all in very cheap quarters. He brought letters of introduction to a few Philadelphians of good social position, and was received in good society, though local tradition says he was awkward and uncouth in manners. One of his boarding-places was in a tavern kept by a Frenchman named Oeller. A Mr. Wamsey, an Englishman, who made an excursion to the United States in 1794, states in his diary, published after his return, that he observed in the bar-room of Oeller's, "enjoying himself with jest and wine, that eminent man, Mons. Talleyrand, the late Bishop of Autun." It is a fact probably not generally known that Talleyrand became a citizen of the United States by naturalization, his papers being afterwards exhibited in a Philadelphia museum. A few years later he returned to France and became a prominent figure in the political movements and intrigues of Napoleon's time. True to his instincts, he betrayed the Emperor and received his reward from the Emperor's enemies.

THE ALLIANCE AND THE LAND TAX.

The public long since lost all interest in Hon. Jerry Simpson, the Representative-elect from Kansas, as an individual. He ceased to be picturesque when he declared that he had always worn socks. But as a recognized leader in an economic and political movement Simpson's utterances are a matter of interest. Consequently, the following statement in a recent interview in New York is of interest:

Yes, I am a free-trader and an advocate of direct taxation. We will have to come to it. Yes, I think the Alliance will favor Henry George's idea of a single tax. We have got to reach the soulless corporations and the rich some way.

In nearly every Northern State farmers have been passing resolutions asking legislators to devise a system of taxation which will relieve real estate of its unjust burden and impose a portion of the taxes upon other forms of property and franchises of money value. Several legislatures have been attempting, during the past winter, to relieve farms and homes of the burden which old systems of taxation impose. Yet here is Jerry Simpson, who is traveling up and down the country to advocate the extension of the Alliance, in New York declaring that that organization "will favor Henry George's idea of a single tax." Every one knows that the George idea is to abolish all forms of taxation, indirect or direct, upon corporations, banks, railroads and franchises, and impose upon land all the taxes which are necessary to run national as well as local government. The hundreds of millions required to defray the expense of the federal government and pensions would be imposed not upon incomes, or stocks, bonds and franchises, but upon land alone. The George theory is based upon the ground that there should be no such ownership of land by the individual—that it is the property of the Nation, and should be let to secure revenues to maintain all governments. Carried into effect, Henry George's theory would practically destroy all property in lands, since the tax imposed would be more than all incomes derived from money invested in farms. Such a theory with the force of law would amount to a practical confiscation of property in farms, and they would practically become the property of the government, the annual rental of which would be the taxes imposed. And yet Jerry Simpson, apostle of the Farmers' Alliance from the West to the East, declares that the Alliance will favor Mr. George's idea of single tax! Is not Jerry Simpson in New York misrepresenting the farmer in the West?

THEORY AND PRACTICE IN WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

There is a great difference between theory and practice in the matter of woman's rights, so called. To hear the champions of such rights hold forth it might be thought that women, as a class, are not only down-trodden and oppressed, but that they feel the burden of the shackles, and, to a woman, are ready and anxious to free themselves from their bonds and revel in liberty. The idea is also conveyed that it is only a lack of freedom to act that restrains women from flocking together and co-operating with each other in business, in educational, philanthropic and political matters. It is argued that they only need opportunity to prove their possession of business talents of a high order; that, being necessarily deeply interested in the education of children, their active participation in school management must be a boon to all concerned; that they will be of one mind as to the methods of bringing about social and political reforms. As it happens, facts, a few of which may be mentioned by way of illustration, are directly in conflict with these theories and assertions. Mrs. William Astor, a woman with great wealth at her command, and certainly free to secure the aid and influence of her own sex in any direction, employs a male almoner because she does not trust the judgment of a woman in the matter of judicious distribution. Men reason, she says; women are actuated by their emotions to prodigal outlay. Mrs. Frank Leslie, who is credited with having achieved great business success through exercise of her own talents, announces her intention of ultimately founding an institution for the higher industrial and intellectual education of women. Under the circumstances, it might be supposed that she would leave the execution of this plan to women; but no. There are very few women, she says, who have any executive ability; therefore, two men for business qualities and one woman for knowledge of her sex will fill Mrs. Leslie's idea of a board of trustees. It is acknowledged freely by many men that the presence of women on school boards ought to be of benefit to the schools, but among teachers the feeling is strongly and universally against such an innovation. This was shown by the earnest opposition of New York teachers to the reappointment of a woman who had served as a trustee for one term and had succeeded, in spite of the most amiable intentions, in making herself generally disliked. The feeling was manifested again last week in Atchison, Kan., when the female teachers registered solely in order to vote against women who were candidates for school officers. If any doubt exists as to the prevalence of this sentiment it is only necessary to inquire of teachers anywhere concerning their preferences in the matter of principals and trustees and note the promptness with which nineteen out of twenty declare in favor of men for such positions. The same notion, or prejudice, or whatever it may be, was recently shown in another way, and its secret more clearly disclosed by an Indianapolis woman prominent in public work, who, in a published interview, opposed the appointment of women on the State commission for the world's fair, on the ground that women exhibiters could obtain more favors and better treatment of men. The Journal has no comments to make concerning the propriety or the soundness of these views, but merely states facts as they present themselves. It is, however, impossible not to draw the inference that women, as a body, do not have that profound trust in their own sex that leads them to seek practical methods of manifesting it, and that they still have a lingering confidence that the male of their species means to do well by them and has no fixed and evil intention of defrauding or oppressing them. This confidence may be misplaced and a result of the long centuries of "enforced female inferiority" that we hear about, but in any case it needs to be destroyed before womankind can unite harmoniously and with unbroken phalanx march on, sweeping "all the world and the rest of mankind" before them.

THE action of the Tennessee Legislature in voting a State pension of $8 1/3 to $25 per month, according to disability, to all disabled ex-confederate soldiers who served in Tennessee regiments, does not meet the approval of the Union veteran who served his country in commands from that State. It is estimated that this action will cost the State over $100,000 a year, which adds to a taxation already high, by reason of a State debt of over $16,000,000. The Legislature refused to appropriate a dollar to insure representation at the Columbian fair.

SOUTHERN papers are making much of "Bill Arp's" story that Gen. George H. Thomas once told the late Gen. Joseph E. Johnston that he (Thomas) would have joined the Confederacy if he had been offered a good place. With both men dead, such yarns are safe from authoritative denial, but the boasted sentiment of "Southern chivalry" should prevent the slandering of men who can no longer protect themselves.

AUSTRALIA has adopted a written constitution closely resembling that of the United States, and calls itself the Commonwealth of Australia. The chief executive is to be a Governor-general appointed by the Queen, but he will not be much more than a figure-head. In the new government the power of the crown is a figment. Australia is gravitating steadily towards separation from Great Britain and republican government.

HON. LORENZO CROUNSE, of Nebraska, the man selected for the vacant Assistant Secretaryship of the Treasury, served through the war as captain of a New York battery, went to Nebraska in 1865, helped form the Constitution, was a member of the Supreme Court and of Congress four years. He is a gentleman of large experience and ability.

THE present indications are that the proposition to enlist Indians in the regular army will not meet with success, mainly because the Indian does not desire to be a soldier subject to military discipline. It is also reported that a large majority of the bucks are not physically able to meet the requirements of the service.

THE Farmers' Alliance managers declare their intention of nominating a presidential candidate, but there is some reason to believe that the chosen one will not be editor Dana.

A New Mortuary Muse.

Editor Watterson, who has been going about the conntry, lecturing on "Money and Morals," has discovered a way whereby he can acquire money at a much more rapid rate than by lecturing, and at the same time preserve his morals. Editor Watterson has undertaken to emulate editor Childs, and is now devoting his energies to the production of mortuary verse—a species of literature which, as everybody knows, the Philadelphia man has found immensely profitable. Poet-editor Watterson's verse is a little feeble yet, in spots, but this is a fault that will lessen with time and practice. No doubt its lameness arises largely from its tearful nature, the sympathetic soul of the writer being too deeply affected to permit him to perform his task with the metrical skill that lends such a finish to the Ledger's lines. Eventually, however, he will be enabled to produce the poems without missing a cog, and at the same time give free vent to his emotion. In view of his limited experience in this department of editorial labor and the sentimental difficulties involved in its production, it is, perhaps, hardly fair to present any samples of his work to the world outside of Kentucky, but still, for the promise that is in them, a few of the best specimens may be offered. "Three sisters" have come to him for some lines to their departed brother. He seizes the idea at once, and thus he sings—if an obituary poet can be said to sing:

Dear Brother Fred, we bow each head,
And shed sweet memory's tear,
And though apart, in each fond heart
We wish that you was here.

We think of you, kind, good and true,
Who dwells in heaven above;
On wings of joy to you, dear boy,
We send your sisters' love.

"A wife and boys" appeal to him for a rhythmical expression of their grief. He is equal to the occasion and dashes off three stanzas, of which this is the first:

It was just one year ago
Our pape's spirit fled;
How sudden was the summons,
When word came, papa's dead.

"Husband and children" wish him to speak for them, which he does, as follows:

We had once a loving mother;
She was our joy and pride.
We loved her, ah! perhaps too well,
For soon she slept and died.

Just why this excess of love was fatal is not explained, but, no doubt, the bereaved family will even matters up with the stepmother, who will probably not die of too much love.

Space does not permit further excerpts, but the progress of this mortuary muse will be watched, and gems deserving a wide circulation will be reproduced. Editor Watterson will find this pursuit of his later years not only lucrative, but of a soothing character, and free from the vexations that follow the writing of letters to presidential candidates. He is to be congratulated on his choice.

A CASUAL thought suggests itself to the Journal in connection with the movement to secure the appointment of a police matron in this city. The ladies engaged in urging the matter grow eloquent in their indignation over the shame of leaving to the rough mercies of policemen the forlorn female waifs thrown up by the tide of city life; they shiver with outraged modesty as they picture those wretched women, drunk and half clothed, perhaps, in the rude grasp of the officers of the law. The presence of a matron will, they think, afford a sense of comfort and protection to the poor creatures and insure an observance of the conventional proprieties and decencies. The Journal has no objection to such an appointment—on the contrary, it favors it—but it cannot refrain from wondering how many of the excellent ladies who are so shocked at the thought of the situation of the female prisoners at the station, and so full of sympathy with their supposed feminine shrinking from contact with the officials—the wonder naturally arises whether or not the sensitive natures of these women cause them to suffer agonies from the attendance of male physicians upon themselves, and from the intimate association necessarily involved by the presence of such persons in their households. And if they do so suffer, which must, of course, be the case, why do they not apply a remedy? And why—but perhaps such inquiries are impertinent. The Journal, as before stated, had merely a casual curiosity—and it does like consistency.

NOBODY would have supposed that international reciprocity had a humorous side, but it seems it has. State Department officials have found considerable amusement in the last quarterly report from Mr. Alexander Clark, our minister resident and consul-general at Monrovia, Liberia. Mr. Clark goes on to state with great fluency the importance of maintaining friendly trade and commercial relations between the United States and Liberia. Then, in reply to a request from the State Department for a statement showing the value and the character of the shipments from Monrovia to the United States, he sets forth that during the last quarter he was called upon officially to sign invoices for 175 parrots, fifteen monkeys, seven snakes, one piece of Liberian cloth and a small quantity of sugar, altogether aggregating about $250.

THE Christian Union tells its New York readers that it knows of a woman who, for a reasonable price, will take charge of their houses when they wish to go away for the summer, put them in perfect order, close them, and let the occupants go for their outing free of care, and not worn out with extra labor. She will also open and air them preparatory to their return. If the Union really knows a woman to whom the average housekeeper will be willing to turn over her domestic goods without a misgiving or a lingering care, that woman only needs to become known to be in the direct road to opulence and honor.

A CHICAGO physician cards a newspaper of that city to say that asafœtida is of great benefit in the treatment of la grippe. He says:

I have used it personally and watched its effects on many cases. The action of the drug was in every case most satisfactory, not only relieving the distress, but cutting short the disease. The manner of administration is four four-grain pills every three hours, this to be continued until the patient is relieved. As the serious symptoms are relieved three instead of four can be taken. It should be continued until the symptoms entirely disappear. I am confident asafœtida is as much of a specific for grip as quinine is for ague.

A LITERARY critic, whose duty it is to pass upon the poems sent to a leading magazine, stated recently that during the past nine weeks he had 1,237 poems, of which only thirty-three were accepted. During the year 1890 he said the percentage of poems accepted was still smaller. This is a terrible warning to spring poets.

A GERMAN chemist has recently patented a preparation called "Tetramethydiamidodiphenylemethanesulphony." Think of staggering into a drug store with the neuralgia, or some other acute pain, and trying to ask for that.

BREAKFAST-TABLE CHAT.

BOOK-SELLERS say that Kipling's books are no longer asked for by the buyers of novels, and they also decline to have the Kipling literature urged upon them.

MARGARET SANGSTER encourages the production of sunshine by saying, "The longer I live the more I am inclined to set the highest valuation on pleasant people.

AFTER long opposition on the part of the vestry the electric light has finally been introduced into old Trinity Church, New York. The new light was first used on Easter Sunday.

BISHOP JOHN A. VINCENT declares that the Bible was never so deeply studied as at present, and adds: "It is a text-book everywhere and has a literature more extensive than any other."

HENRY FIELDING DICKENS, the recorder of Deal, England, and the most capable of the sons left by the novelist, has successfully defended in court Charles Lyddon, the young medical student charged with poisoning his step-brother, Dr. W. R. Lyddon.

DAVID JACKS is a California millionaire who can ride for twenty miles in a straight line upon his own land. He is a Scotchman and a devout Presbyterian, and reached California in 1849 as a stowaway, because he had no money to pay his passage.

THE Baroness Fava is an Italian lady of rare accomplishments, who speaks several European languages fluently and correctly, as well as English. She is a great admirer of America, though the climate has prevented her from living here for two or three years.

THE late President Garfield's son Harry A. has an ambition for politics, and essayed to place his foot upon one of the lower rounds by an election to the Cleveland City Council, but a saloon-keeper named Henz managed to show the greater number of votes.

M. DE ENNATSKY, the Russian gentleman who bet 25,000 roubles that he would drive his troika from Samara to Paris in eighty days, reached Paris on March 17, twenty-two days ahead of time. He used three little Ural horses, the maximum distance covered for any day being about 120 miles.

THE late John Plankinton, although one of the richest and ablest business men of the Northwest, never held a public office. Some years ago he joined with Phil. Armour in the purchase of two monuments that were to be placed over their graves, the cost of the two not being over $5,000.

MOUNT PILATUS has heretofore been saved from having a railway built up its side by the perpetual cloud that rests on its top. It has been discovered that this cloud is never more than ninety feet high, so now the company is ready to build the railroad and raise an Eiffel tower 300 feet in diameter at its base, 840 feet in height, with a platform at the top 120 feet square. Krupp is to supply the steel, and the building is hoped for in 1895.

E. A. ABBEY, the artist, has a delightful retreat in Bedford Gardens, one of those charming country spots which can be found only in a big city like London. Here he has, among other treasures, a room transferred